

AMBLE URBAN DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1960

AMBLE URBAN DISTRICT

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1 9 6 0

JOHN McCORMACK, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health,
Area Health Office,
Wagonway Road,
ALNWICK.

Tel: Alnwick 2263

T.B. ADAMSON, M.A.P.H.I.,
Surveyor and Public Health Inspector,
Amble Urban District Council,
Council Offices,
AMBLE.

Tel: Amble 225



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28803954>

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1960

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Amble Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my first Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the district during the year 1960.

I commenced duties as Medical Officer of Health late in the year, and thus the report relates largely to the time prior to my appointment.

I wish to pay tribute to my predecessor Dr. R. Short, who left the district in September to take up a new appointment in Edinburgh. He indeed left a legacy of goodwill which it has been my good fortune to inherit; we all wish him well in his new post.

Perusal of the vital statistics of the area shows no significant change from the previous year. There was a slight increase in the number of births, and it is pleasing to observe that the number of infant deaths fell from 3 in 1959, to 1 in 1960.

The death rate of 11.28 per thousand of the population is very similar to 1959, and closely follows the national average.

The immunological state of the district remains very high. Over 95% of children under 15 have been immunised against poliomyelitis, and there was a considerable increase in the immunisations given to older age groups. Diphtheria immunisation has, for some time, been combined with protection against whooping cough and tetanus, and the level of protection in the under 5 age group is very satisfactory. In fact, 90% of children are protected when they start school.

In considering the Public Health Inspector's Report, it is encouraging to see the greatly increased response in the last year to applications for housing improvement grants. During the year, 44 grants were made, as against 9 in the previous year. It is good to see this helpful aid to better housing being more widely used.

During 1960 there was a further useful reduction in the number of earth closets in use in the district. I fully agree with the Public

Health Inspector's recommendation, that remaining earth closets should eventually be dealt with under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

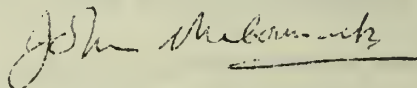
1960 saw the introduction of the Caravan Act. This, however, caused little worry to the Council, as the two Council owned sites were very well run and fully complied with the standards laid down in the Act.

Amble Urban District Council has a long and proud record as a water undertaking. However, with increasing standards and vastly greater usage, the days of small water undertakings must be limited. The time is approaching when the Council will have to further consider the possibility of merging their supply and distribution with a larger undertaking, which can only result in the common good.

Included in this year's report is a summary of the quinquennial report relating to Port Health Authority duties.

I should like, finally, to extend my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, the Clerk of the Council, and particularly to Mr. Adamson, for their help since commencing my duties with the Council in 1960.

I have the honour to be,
Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,



Medical Officer of Health

GENERAL STATISTICS

The area of the district was 1,220 acres.

The number of inhabited houses was 1,682 and the number of new houses completed during the year was 36.

The rateable value was £43,090 and the sum represented by a penny rate was £175.

The estimated mid-year population was 4,930 and this figure was taken when calculating the Birth and Death rate.

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	55	37	92
Illegitimate	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>8</u>
Totals	<u>60</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>100</u>

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population	20.28
Crude Birth Rate multiplied by Comparability Factor	21.69
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	8.0

Still Births

Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Totals	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and still births	9.90
Total live and still births	101

Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)

Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Totals	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>

Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	10.00
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	10.86
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-

Neo-natal Mortality Rate

Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births	10.00
--	-------

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate

Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births	10.00
---	-------

Peri-natal Mortality Rate

Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	19.80
---	-------

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of Deaths	-
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	-

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
	28	25	53
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the population			10.75
Crude Death Rate multiplied by Comparability Factor			11.28
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis			-
Deaths from Other Puerperal Causes			-
Deaths from Cancer			15

The statistics expressed per 1,000 of the population are bound to vary without significance when applied to small numbers. Nevertheless, with few exceptions, the Amble figures correspond fairly closely to the national numbers.

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	-	1	1
Tuberculosis (Other)	-	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1	-	1
" " Lung, Bronchus	2	1	3
" " Breast	-	1	1
" " Uterus	-	1	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	7	2	9
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	-	-
Diabetes	-	1	1
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	2	5	7
Coronary Disease, Angina	5	5	10
Hypertension with Heart Disease	-	-	-
Other Heart Disease	3	2	5
Other Circulatory Disease	1	-	1
Influenza	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	1	1
Bronchitis	1	-	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	-	-	-
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	-	-	-
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations	-	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	1	4
Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	3	3
All Other Accidents	2	1	3
Homicide and Operations of War, or Suicide	-	-	-
Totals	<u>28</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>53</u>

Regrettably, there was one death during the year from tuberculosis, affecting an elderly person.

Malignant conditions and heart diseases each accounted for about one third of the total number of deaths.

ACCIDENTAL DEATHS

There were six accidental deaths, which was the same number as 1959; three of these were from road accidents.

Sex	Cause of Death	Age
<u>Males</u>	Drowning. Deceased was accidentally drowned by falling into the Quarry Pond.	5
	Drowning. Deceased was walking on rocks near the sea when he slipped on a wet seaweed covered surface and fell into sea.	79
<u>Females</u>	Fracture dislocation of neck and multiple injuries. Deceased was a passenger in a motor car which collided with a wall.	21
	Haemorrhage following compression of chest. Deceased was a passenger in a motor car which collided with a wall.	31
	Fracture dislocation of neck.	36
	Bronchopneumonia, renal failure and toxæmia. Nightdress caught fire in backyard of her residence.	67

INFANT MORTALITY

It is pleasing to report a reduction in infant mortality during the year. The number of infant deaths fell from 3 in 1959, to 1 in 1960.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY REPORTS

<u>Results</u>	
<u>Throat Swabs</u>	
Monilia	1
Coagulase Positive Staphylococci	7
Haemolytic Streptococci	26
Vincent's spirochaetes and fusiform bacilli	2
Streptococcus Pneumoniae	<u>1</u>
	37
Negative	<u>16</u>
Total number of specimens taken .. ..	.. <u>53</u>
<u>Faecal Specimens</u>	
Shigella sonnei	10
Salmonella typhi-murium	<u>21</u>
	31
Negative	<u>41</u>
Total number of specimens taken .. ..	.. <u>72</u>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever	-
Whooping Cough	-
Diphtheria	-
Measles	4
Pneumonia	-
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	-
Enteric Fever	-
Erysipelas	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-
Dysentery	5
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-
Smallpox	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-
Food Poisoning	7
Encephalitis	-

During the year there were only 4 cases of measles, thus illustrating the well-known two yearly cycle which occurs in this disease (during 1959 there were 99 cases).

There were 5 cases of dysentery, and 7 instances of food poisoning notified. The number of cases of food poisoning notified, probably does not reflect the true extent of the disease. Many mild cases occur which, in the opinion of the patient, do not warrant the attention of a doctor. Thus, without doubt, the incidence of the illness is higher than that revealed by the number of notifications. It is more than ever important that the highest possible standards of hygiene should be maintained by everyone who handles food. Legislation is in force which helps to maintain higher standards in all food shops and catering establishments. It is, therefore, incumbent upon the housewife to exercise equal care in food preparation.

There were two cases of tuberculosis during 1960, which was the same number affected as in 1959. This former scourge, is thus still by no means eradicated.

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-45	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45+	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Totals	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATIONDiphtheria Immunisation

Age on 31.12.60. (i.e. born in year)	Under 1 1960	1-4 1956-1959	5-9 1951-1955	10-14 1946-1950	Under 15 Total
A. Number of children whose last course (primary or booster) was completed in the period 1956-1960.	41	322	385	21	769
B. Number of children whose last course (primary or booster) was completed in the period 1955 or earlier	-	-	145	532	677
C. Estimated mid-year child population	97	355	1029		1481
Immunity Index 100 A/C	42.26	90.70	39.45		51.92

The above table shows that the immunity index (which is the percentage of children in different age groups immunised during the last five years) is very satisfactory in the pre-school children. The level, however, of children over five should, ideally, be higher than it is. It is desirable for children to receive a booster immunisation at about the age of nine years.

Smallpox Vaccination

Number Vaccinated During Period							Number Re-vaccinated						
District	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over	Total	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over	Total	
Alnwick U.D.	57	3	-	-	5	65	-	-	1	2	12	15	
Amble U.D.	34	-	6	3	4	47	-	-	-	1	2	3	
Alnwick R.D.	149	8	5	5	7	174	-	-	1	2	18	21	
Rothbury R.D.	65	1	1	1	2	70	-	-	1	-	23	24	
Totals	305	12	12	9	18	356	-	-	3	5	55	63	

It will be seen that the total number of vaccinations against smallpox carried out during the year was small. It is often difficult persuading mothers to have their infants vaccinated, as the risk of contracting smallpox is extremely small. However, if a large percentage of the population have been vaccinated, there is a correspondingly smaller likelihood of the disease spreading, should it be introduced into the country.

Infancy is the best time to be vaccinated, as the reaction and scarring are practically negligible. A great many people require vaccination in adult life for one reason or another, and if vaccination is performed for the first time in an adult, the upset is much greater than in a child.

From this point of view alone, vaccination in infancy is well worth-while.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

North No. 1 and 2 Areas

Age Group	Number having received two injections
1 - 15	13,597
15 - 25	4,556
25 - 40	1,624
Over 40	179
Of these, 17,028 received their third injection since the advent of the scheme to 31st December, 1960.	

The public response to poliomyelitis immunisation has been excellent in the under 15 age group. Well over 90% of the children in North Northumberland have been protected.

The numbers immunised in the older age groups are however, not so satisfactory, and considerable effort is still needed to persuade these people to avail themselves of the protection offered.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR1960

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my seventh Report on the work of the Department during the year.

January was an anxious month due to the mechanical breakdowns on all the vehicles culminating in the Traffic Inspector's removal from the road of the Highways lorry on 14th January. A new 7 cubic yard Diesel "Karrier Bantam" with removable top was ordered and delivered on 21st April. The Water Department's van was also subjected to a thorough examination by the Traffic Inspector and as a result of his report, it was decided to purchase a new Austin A 55 van which was delivered on 30th March and completed the renewal of all Council vehicles in the past three years.

The "changing face" of Amble continued during the year with the final demolition of Marks Row. It is hoped the resultant area can now be redeveloped either as an open space or with a selected number of houses.

In the town centre, the British Legion completed their palatial Club and the Amble Boys' Club erected an ultra-modern building for the youth of the town. Plans were deposited and approved for major alterations to various shops and business premises in Queen Street, which will, when completed during 1961, give a much needed "face-lift" to our main shopping centre.

Private housing development showed no signs of deceleration and the Castle View estate entered into its final stages whilst plans were approved late in the year for the erection of houses at Ocean Road.

The 13th Housing Development on the Links Estate was completed by the end of the year providing another 20 houses in the slum clearance campaign and to meet the ever constant demand for houses, the Council commenced negotiations for the erection of houses for sale.

Highway improvements were mainly of general maintenance although the Bisley Road/Castle View private development was surfaced to extent of housing development and the whole east side of Dovecote Street foot-path was repaved. A start was made on the Links Caravan Site road where it is hoped that a permanent road can be created to join up with the County Council's proposed Hauxley road.

The water supply was maintained during the year although it was necessary to enforce the restriction of the use of hose-pipes etc., to ensure a satisfactory domestic supply. A further source of supply was created when an option on water supplies was secured on an N.C.B. prospecting borehole at Acton Dene.

All routine duties were carried out including 100% meat inspection, and the caravan sites were well administered for the constant growth in number of visitors.

Details of other duties are dealt with at length under their respective headings.

In conclusion, I would thank Council members for their interest and co-operation, and the office and out-door staffs for their willing service at all times.

I am,
Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

T.B.ADAMSON

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector

HOUSINGSTATISTICS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1960

New Houses completed during the year	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority	20	-	20
(b) By any other Housing Authority	-	-	-
(c) By private persons	3	13	16

Total number of inhabited houses in District 1682

Total number of houses owned by Local Authority 309

ACTION WITH REGARD TO UNFIT HOUSES

<u>Closing and Demolition</u>	<u>No. of houses</u>
1. Houses demolished in Clearance Areas	11
2. Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas	14
3. Houses closed, not demolished	10
4. Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included in above	4

RepairsHouses made fit

5. By informal action	89
6. By owners following statutory notice	4
7. By local authority in default of owners	-
8. Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction	-

Houses Patched

9. Houses in clearance areas still in use at end of year for temporary accommodation	-
--	---

SLUM CLEARANCEProgress report for first five-year period ended 31st December, 1960

1. Total number of unfit houses as originally estimated in 1955	100
2. Total number of unfit houses demolished since January, 1956	35
3. Estimated number of houses in the district remaining unfit for human habitation	43

IMPROVEMENT GRANTSHousing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959

A. <u>DISCRETIONARY GRANTS</u>	<u>No. of separate houses</u>
1. Applications submitted to Local Authority during year	44
2. Applications rejected	9
3. Applications approved	35
4. Approximate average grant approved per house	£163. 0. 0.
5. Total number of houses approved for grant in the area since inception of scheme	109
B. <u>STANDARD GRANTS</u>	
1. Number of separate houses for which grants have been made	Nil

Note: Three applications were made during the year but none of them was found to comply with the provisions of the Act

HOUSING

December 1960 saw the completion of the 13th Development (12 houses and 8 bungalows) on the Links Estate resulting in the rehousing of 21 families totalling 67 persons. This total of 57 dwellings now completed represents over the half-way mark in the Council's estimated programme of 100 houses.

A proposed scheme of houses for sale was further considered and discussions took place with the Homeville Company Limited who took members of the Council to visit similar schemes in progress at Leyburn and Seaham. Such was the enthusiasm that by the end of the year, a site survey had been completed at the Links Estate and a draft layout prepared. The public response to this scheme was good, and it is felt that subject to actual prices being within range of those quoted by the Homeville Company, the sale of these houses will go a long way in meeting the demand for private housing.

A total of thirty-five Discretionary Grants were approved during the year, twenty-five being for owner/occupied properties and ten for tenanted properties. This was a most pleasing feature and a great increase on the 1959 figure of grants approved (9). Despite the obvious increase in work caused by the demand for improvements, it is felt that a greater number of owners could qualify for grants and so bring their properties to a higher standard of accommodation.

Only three applications were received during the year for "Standard Grants" and it was regretted that none could be approved due to their non-compliance with the provisions of the Act.

CONVERSION TO WATER CLOSETS

At the end of the year, a total of 19 earth closets remained in the Urban District. This figure was a reduction of twelve from the previous year caused by:-

Demolition (slum clearance)	4
Closing Orders (Slum clearance)	1
Conversions	<u>7</u>
Total ..	<u>12</u>

Of the remaining nineteen, seven were to be converted by mid-1961 one was so situated at an agricultural holding that any form of conversion is impracticable, one was so situated at property at present under a Closing Order which was to be generally renovated and six were at properties owned by a Nationalised Body who had indicated their intentions of converting them during the Financial Year 1961/62. Of the then remaining four, no action is contemplated by the owners despite the offer by the Council of £10 towards the cost of each conversion.

It is strongly recommended that all earth closets remaining in the district by the end of 1961, should be dealt with under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936, whereby the Local Authority are empowered to pay 50% of all reasonable costs incurred in the conversion.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The whole Urban District is satisfactorily sewered and except for the few earth closets as previously mentioned, and scattered farms to the west of the district, all premises are on the water carriage system.

There are two main outlets discharging sewage to the sea and despite opposition in some parts of the country to this system of sewage disposal, no complaints or evidence of pollution have ever been noted along the foreshore. Heavy seas damaged the outlet pipes early in the year but prompt action by the Department prevented pollution or extensive damage.

Complaints of choked drains, both public and private, were expeditiously attended to and no major drainage problems were encountered during the year.

CARAVAN SITES

With the coming into force on 29th August, 1960, of the "Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960", a definite step forward was made in the administration of caravans and caravan sites. The Act supersedes Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and provides control of the establishment and operation of caravan sites by a licensing system operated by the Council of a borough, urban or rural district. (Part 1 of the Act). Furthermore it amends and strengthens the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, relating to the enforcement of planning control. (Part 2 of the Act).

A survey of the district was made to ascertain the number of caravans therein, and after a report on these had been submitted to the Council, their views and recommendations were then despatched to the County Planning Officer, for the eventual decision within six months of the County Planning Committee.

The Council's two holiday caravan sites were fully accommodated during the year and provided sites for approximately five hundred caravans. The "Lord Mayor's Caravan Site" was re-laid out at the commencement of the season to facilitate a better system of numbering.

Improvements effected during the year included the renewal of urinals with glazed fittings and provision of wash-hand basins in the male toilet accommodation and approval was given for the conversion of an existing building into a Social Centre for the use of all site occupiers.

To carry out the many cleansing duties, four wardens were employed on a rota basis, thus giving a seven-day-per-week service to all holiday-makers whilst refuse was collected weekly at the commencement of the season, gradually building up to daily collections during the peak holiday-making period.

The main administration duties were carried out by the Assistant Surveyor in his capacity as Caravan Sites Manager and constant supervision of the sites entailed much weekend and night work by him. All vans were inspected on arrival by the Site Manager and the many touring vans (which invariably arrived late at night) were fully accommodated.

Lifebuoys and float-lines situated at points along the foreshore were inspected daily but vandalistic action required constant repair of the lifebuoys to maintain them in a fit state.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

Three part-time employees were engaged in the up-keep of the park and its perfection was in no small way due to the result of the painstaking work of these excellent workmen whose average age was seventy years.

Mechanical equipment for grass cutting at the Park needed constant attention to maintain them in working order, and with the constant increase of "open spaces" in the district, the acquisition of additional equipment will be a necessity in 1961.

Lack of civic pride retarded any hope of attaining perfection in the various open spaces in the town and housing estate. These continued to be used mainly as short-cuts, dumping grounds for rubbish, football pitches and car parks.

STREET CLEANSING AND PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Street cleansing was carried out during the year by two full-time employees and all street gullies were periodically cleansed. The delivery of loose concessionary coal in the street contributed in the main to the choked gullies.

Litter, particularly during the main holiday period, remained a problem despite the acquisition of further receptacles. It was obvious that the provisions of the Litter Act, 1958, were mostly ignored by the general public and regretful as it may seem, the institution of proceedings against offenders will be the only way to secure a more litter-free Amble.

The two public conveniences in Turner Street and High Street were cleansed daily but acts of vandalism caused much unnecessary expense both in materials and labour.

During the year a total income of £23.17s.4d was derived from the coin operated locks.

STREET LIGHTING

The whole town is served by mains lighting and there are no gas lamps within the district.

Although no large scale programme for the renewal of obsolete brackets was embarked upon, replacements were made to various defective fittings, and gradually the lighting system is being standardised by use of the S.S. 51 enclosed lanterns to which a total of 413 bulb replacements were made.

Concrete columns with swan-neck units were erected at Castle View and Links Estate (13th Development) and a scheme for the Links Caravan Site Road was approved late in the year for completion during 1961.

The electricity authority signified their intention of removing stretches of the overhead network during 1961 and transferring supplies to their underground cables. This would present an ideal opportunity for the Council to replace the unsightly poles and street lighting network of overhead cables, thus clearing the skyline of Church Street to Ladbroke Street.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Despite the introduction in June of a five-day working week for the outdoor staff, a weekly collection of household and trade refuse continued to be made throughout the year, together with a weekly cleansing of the earth closets, and as the area is a predominantly mining district and in receipt of concessionary coal, all refuse was of a heavy nature.

The collections were made with a diesel-powered 7 cubic yard Karrier Bantam vehicle, whilst the new dual-purpose diesel Karrier low loader/refuse vehicle (which is normally used for highway repair work) was brought into use as and when required.

Refuse was disposed of by the controlled tipping system at the Quarry during winter and spring, and at the Braid during summer months, the Braid, which is an area of low-lying land adjacent to the river Coquet is being reclaimed preparatory to its proposed use as an open space.

The Quarry, as the name implies, is an old disused stone quarry adjacent to the sea front and is being filled although there was still an approximate capacity for 15,000 cubic yards of refuse at the end of 1960. Following the death by drowning of a small boy, barbed wire fences and danger notices were erected in an endeavour to prevent people using the sea wall which, in places, gives a sheer fall to the water in the quarry. At the same time a deeper outlet channel was dredged and by this means, the water level was dropped by five feet. Vast quantities of spoil from the excavations of the Coquet Water Scheme were deposited and arrangements were made for disposal of refuse by the Alnwick Rural District Council from the neighbouring parishes of Radcliffe, Warkworth, etc.

One full-time attendant was engaged on controlled tipping and mechanical equipment was hired occasionally for levelling purposes.

Waste paper was disposed of by burning and all condemned meat, butchers' offal and other foods were buried.

The nett cost of collection and disposal (at 31st March 1961) amounted to £3744 and can be summarised as follows:-

Population Estimate	Number of weekly collections		Method of Collection	Total cost
	House	Trade		
4930	1	1	1 x 7 cu. yd side loading vehicle	£3,744

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL COSTS

Total Cost	Number of Premises	Cost per premise	Cost per head of population
£3,744	1925	£1.18s.11d	15/2d

PETROLEUM ACTS AND REGULATIONS

The duties under the Act are carried out by this Department in conjunction with the County Fire Prevention Department whose assistance and advice has always been readily available. All premises were inspected during the year, the inspections being based on the recommendations contained in the "Home Office Model Code of Principles of Construction and Licensing Conditions for Petrol Filling Stations, 1957".

Fourteen licences were issued during 1960 to store petroleum and/or other inflammable material.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

195 visits were made by your Inspectors to slaughterhouses during the year, for the purpose of meat inspection, to give 100% inspection, and 26 visits were made to food shops for the inspection of food unfit for human consumption. In addition, occasional visits for meat inspection were made to slaughterhouses in the areas of adjoining authorities but only under emergency conditions. Fortunately, there is a reciprocal agreement between the officers of the authorities concerned and help would be forthcoming to Amble, if and when required.

The following table gives figures of animals slaughtered during the year within the Urban District.

	Steers	Heifers	Cows and Bulls	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Rams and Ewes	Pigs
Number killed	255	7	2	2	1040	5	149
Number Inspected	255	7	2	2	1040	5	149
<u>All Diseases Except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>							
Whole Carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	113	1	-	1	4	1	2
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>							
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
<u>Cysticercosis</u>							
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Total amount of meat condemned 14 cwts. 1 qr. 17 lbs. the majority of which was offal.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are two slaughterhouses within the district, both of which are privately owned.

As per the provisions of Section 3 of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, the two slaughterhouses were inspected and a report prepared and presented to the Council on 14th June, 1960. The report was agreed upon and consequently a meeting of all interested organisations was then held on 29th June, 1960, when the interested parties agreed that the two local slaughterhouses were adequate for the present and future requirements of the Urban District of Amble.

The report was finally submitted to the Minister on 22nd July, 1960, and this was confirmed on 28th December, 1960, whereby all slaughterhouses in the Council's area must comply fully by the 1st January, 1962, with the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958, and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958.

SLAUGHTERMEN

Fifteen licences to slaughter or stun animals were issued during the year, and of these, two required the applicant to slaughter or stun animals under supervision only.

FOOD PREMISES

Regular visits were made to the fifty-one food premises in the district, and any contraventions or deficiencies were brought to the notice of the owner or person in charge as necessary. Twenty-four premises are licensed for the storage and sale of pre-packed ice-cream intended for sale.

No clean food guilds exist in the district but lectures have been given by invitation to Church Youth Groups, Mother's Clubs etc. and the many questions which invariably arise from the lecture, show a keener sense of clean food consciousness by members of the public.

All condemned food is burned or buried at the controlled tip and during the year, a total of 2 cwts. 2 qrs. 21 lbs. of assorted tinned foods were disposed by this method.

It was not found necessary to institute proceedings for contravention of the food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

MILK AND DAIRIES

The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960, which came into operation on 1st October, 1960, replaced and consolidated with amendments, the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 to 1954, and the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 to 1953. The principal changes are:-

- (1) Dealers' licences will be granted by the food and drugs authority (i.e. Northumberland County Council) and these licences will now permit sales outside as well as inside the area of the licensing authority and supplementary licences are to be discontinued.

- (2) A dealers' (pre-packed milk) licence is introduced to permit the sale of all three kinds of specially designated milk where the milk is obtained by the dealer in the container in which it is to be supplied to the consumer, or is pasteurised or sterilised by the dealer.
- (3) The period for which a dealers' licence will be granted is extended from one year to five years.

During January the following dealers' licences were issued:-

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk)

Regulations, 1949 to 1953:	Pasteurised Milk	7
	Sterilised Milk	5

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949 to 1954:

Tuberculin Tested	5
-------------------	---

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

There are no public swimming baths within the Urban District.

WATER SUPPLY

Water is derived from springs at Hazon and Newton-on-the-Moor, boreholes at Hazon, Hazon Ford, Morwick and Hartlaw and a deep well at Hazon, the latter according to local knowledge being originally sunk some hundreds of years ago by Monks from Guyzance for the recovery of coal.

The borehole at Hartlaw was put down by the National Coal Board whilst prospecting for coal and the resultant artesian water had for several years been carried by overland pipe to discharge into the Hazon Well. The original temporary metal casing of this borehole began showing signs of leakage during 1959 and despite efforts to plug and reline it, the borehole finally collapsed and it was agreed that a replacement borehole be sunk 120 feet away. This was commenced in August, 1960, and was completed to a depth of 482 feet in sandstone, with 6" diameter steel tube lining inserted to 140 feet. A pumping test made for 72 hours yielded 120 gallons per minute and was still artesian when pumping stopped.

The output from these sources is pumped to Morwick where two storage reservoirs are situated, having a capacity of two million gallons which supply Amble Urban District, parts of Alnwick Rural District and the R.A.F. Station at Acklington.

	Daily Average Consumption	Yearly Total
Acklington R.A.F.	45,670 galls.	15,991,500 galls.
Alnwick Rural District	8,440 galls.	2,954,700 galls.
Amble Urban District	136,830 galls.	47,890,500 galls.
Totals	190,940 galls.	66,836,700 galls.

The only treatments given to the water from any of the sources are chlorination and 'Calgon' Threshold Treatment. The automatic injections of these, take place at the inlet to Morwick reservoirs whilst a manually operated drip feed chlorinator has been installed at the Hazon reservoir for emergencies. The dose given in each case is 5 p.p.m.

Analyses taken of the water from all of the sources, indicate that each source is satisfactory. All the waters are inclined to be hard, especially the Hazon Spring Source, with a total hardness figure of 340 p.p.m., 225 p.p.m. of which is temporary in character. The mixed water, however, is almost neutral with a P.H. Figure of 6.8. 'Calgon' treatment minimised the deposit of scale (calcium carbonate) in hot water systems, the successful result being shown by the gradual decrease in back-boiler replacements to Council properties.

Twenty samples for bacteriological examination were taken of the 'mixed' treated waters (i.e. water in supply) and of these, two samples showed a small bacteriological count. On these two occasions, a second sample was immediately taken which showed a negative bacteriological count.

A chemical analysis of the 'mixed' waters was made during the year, at three different places of supply within the Urban District and the following results were obtained:-

	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	
pH	7.7	7.7	7.7	
Alkalinity to phenolphthalein				ppm CaCO ₃
Alkalinity to methyl orange	205	198	203	" "
Total hardness	283	280	285	" "

/Cont..

							<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>		
Calcium hardness	..	..	..	..	..	..	176	185	183	ppm	CaCO ₃
Chloride	..	..	..	..	..	..	28	32	30	"	Cl
Orthophosphate	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.6	0.8	2.1	"	PO ₄
Metaphosphate equivalent to	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.8	0.4	0.2	"	"

Appearance

A A colourless water containing a small amount of brown flocculent deposit.

B Clear and colourless

C A colourless water with a slight black deposit.

There are still many houses within the district which have no internal water supply, details are as follows:-

Number of inhabited dwelling houses	..	..	..	..	1583
Number with internal water supply	..	..	..	..	1233
Number served by external standpipes	..	..	..	..	350
Number of houses with bathrooms	..	..	..	..	1046

Normal maintenance, including repairs and annual replacements of pumps was carried out by the Department together with the laying of new mains at the Links Estate (13th Development) and the Castle View housing development.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 - 1948

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspection made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Ins- pections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occu- piers Prose- cuted (5)
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	6	19	-	-
2. Factories not included in 1, in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority.	19	51	-	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	22	-	-
Totals	28	92	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:-

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation(S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act. (Not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	4	4	-	-	-

The number of factories on the register totalled 28. Of these, 6 are 'non-power' factories and 19 are 'power' factories, whilst other premises (building sites etc.) total 3. 92 visits were made during the year to secure compliance with the Act.

AGRICULTURE (SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT, 1956

Visits were made to farms within the District to secure compliance with the provisions of the Act and at the seven farms sanitary accommodation was available for workers whilst arrangements for seasonal outworkers were found to be reasonable.

RODENT CONTROL

Under the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, the responsibility for the control of rodent infestation in Urban and Rural areas, was placed on local authorities and to this end, treatment was carried

out on receipt of complaints both at private and business premises, the latter being charged on a "time and material" basis.

The bi-annual treatment of sewers was carried out during the year and except for isolated 'takes', there was no evidence of major infestations.

Visits to farms within the district were made to ascertain action being taken against rats and mice and although no evidence of infestation was found, it was noted that stocks of 'warfarin' were kept in anticipation of any infestation.

The following statistics, as required by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, show action taken during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1960.

	Type of Property				Agri- cul- tur- al (5)
	Non-Agricultural				
	Local Auth- ority (1)	Dwelling houses (Incl. Council houses) (2)	All other (Incl. business premises) (3)	Total of Cols. 1, 2 & 3 (4)	
1. Number of properties in local authority's district	6	1583	99	1688	16
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of:-					
(a) Notification	-	23	3	26	-
(b) Survey under the Act	-	43	16	59	9
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose	6	550	180	736	14
4. Number of properties inspected in (2) which were found to be infested by:-					
(a) Rats (Major	-	-	-	-	-
(Minor	2	43	12	57	3
(b) Mice (Major	-	-	-	-	-
(Minor	1	12	3	16	-
5. Number of infested properties in (4) treated by local authority	3	55	15	73	-
6. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act	-	-	-	-	-
7. Number of 'block' control schemes carried out	-	-	-	-	-

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases were notified to the Department by the Medical Officer of Health when visits were made.

DYSENTERY .. 5

Arising from these cases a total of 56 specimens were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory.

INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR

Houses - Public Health Acts and Housing Acts; Visits	318
Houses - Property under Notice	24
Complaints investigated (excluding Council House Repairs)	154
Council House Repairs	327
Factories	92
Building Sites (Council)	394
Building Operations (Byelaw inspections)	381
Drainage Work	190
Food Hygiene (Shops and Food Premises)	62
Meat Inspection	195
Rodent Control	68
Refuse Tips	80
Caravan Sites - Visits	714
Waterworks - Visits	84
Unsound Food	26
Infectious Diseases	12
Interviews with Owners - Caravan Sites	528
Interviews with Owners - Housing, Improvement Grants etc.	312
	<hr/>
	3,810
	<hr/>

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
RELATING TO PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY DUTIES
FOR YEAR ENDED 1960
AMBLE URBAN DISTRICT

Section 1 - Staff

Table A

Name of Officer	Nature of Appointment	Date of Appointment	Qualifications	Any Other Appointments held
John McCormack	Medical Officer of Health	November 1960	M.B., B.S., D.P.H.,	Area Executive Medical Officer
T.B. Adamson	Public Health Inspector	February 1955	Cert. Royal Sanitary Assoc. of Scotland M.A.P.H.I.	Surveyor

Address and telephone number of the Res: The Close, West Acres, Alnwick.
Medical Officer of Health Tel: Alnwick 2480
Office: Area Health Office, Wagonway Road, Alnwick.
Tel: Alnwick 2263

Section 11 - Amount of shipping entering district during the year

Table B

Ships from	Number	Number of Inspections		Number of ships reported as having had during the voyage infectious disease on board
		By M.O.H.	By P.H.I.	
Foreign	2	-	2	-
Coastwise	231	-	45	-
Totals	233	-	47	-

Section 111 - Character of shipping and trade during the year

Table C

Passenger Traffic	(Number of passengers inwards - Nil (Number of passengers outwards - Nil
Cargo Traffic	(Principal imports - Nil (Principal exports - Coal
Principal Ports from which ships arrive	Aberdeen (54) Leith (15) and mainly London (13) Fraserburgh (11) British Ports

Section IV - Inland barge traffic

There is no inland barge traffic.

Section V - Water Supply

The Council, as the water undertakers, supply both the port and shipping from town mains. The water is sold to the Harbour Commissioners who are responsible for supplying the ships. Supply is carried out by means of hydrants and hosepipes. The hosepipes are kept in the stores belonging to the Harbour Commissioners and flushed before being used. There are no water boats.

Section VI - Public Health (Ships) Regulations

1. List of infected areas

The Weekly Epidemiological Record of the World Health Organisation is received by this Authority and copy forwarded to the Customs Officer who receives the declarations of health coming from ports other than excepted ports. These are then forwarded to the Council Offices.

2. Radio Messages

Link-up radio telephone through radio station Cullercoats to ship.

3. Notification otherwise than by radio

Signals received by Coast Guard Station and communicated by telephone to Harbour Master's Office.

4. Mooring Stations

Should any infectious disease exist on board, the ship is moored to the west jetty and quarantined until the appropriate steps are taken.

5. Arrangements for:-

(a) Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases

Isolation for infectious diseases would be provided in Walker Gate Hospital, Newcastle.

(b) Surveillance and follow up of contacts

Surveillance and follow up of contacts is carried out by the Medical Officer of Health and Public Health Inspector.

(c) Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other articles

Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other articles are carried out when required under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector.

Section VII - Smallpox

- (1) Smallpox cases would be sent by ambulance to Langley Park Hospital, County Durham, Telephone: Langley Park 214.
- (2) Transport would be by ambulance from the Northumberland County Council Ambulance Service.
- (3) Smallpox Consultants available:-
Dr. W. Minns, Deputy County Medical Officer, County Hall, Newcastle.
Dr. J. Grant, Medical Officer of Health, Greensfield House, Gateshead.
Dr. H. Pearson, Dunston Hill Hospital, Gateshead.
- (4) Laboratory facilities at Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle.

Section VIII - Venereal Disease

Available facilities for the diagnosis and treatment for venereal diseases at:-

General Hospital	-	Newcastle on Tyne.
Preston Hospital	-	North Shields.
22 Stanley Street	-	Blyth.

Notices are exhibited in the Public Conveniences in the town.

Section IX - Cases of notifiable and other infectious diseases - Table D

No cases of infectious diseases were reported as having occurred on vessels during the voyage.

Section X - Observations on occurrence of malaria

No cases of malaria have been reported.

Section XI - Measures against ships suspected of infection with plague

No cases of suspected plague have been reported.

Section XII - Measures against rodents

Vessels inspected showed little or no signs of rodent infestation.
Arrangements available for deratting are traps or poisoning.

Table E

No rats were destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports, there being no evidence of rat infestation on any ships entering Amble Harbour.

Table F

As Amble is not a designated approved Port, this Section regarding de-ratting certificates does not apply.

